



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Angie Castro, (626)350-4500  
mobile, (213) 703-2823

## **MOLINA WARNS AGAINST RENTAL SCAMS AND BRINGS SHERIFF AND COUNTY AGENCIES TO AIDE OF FRAUD VICTIMS IN COVINA**

Sheriff Filing Grand Theft Case and Victims Asked to Contact Sheriff's  
San Dimas Station at (909) 599-1261 – Town Sheriff Jay Heitmann

COVINA ISLANDS (April 30, 2008) – In response to concerns from her constituents who reported possible rental fraud, Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina has directed a team of County agencies to respond to the more than 12 victims who paid \$2,400 each for a rental house in the Covina unincorporated area – only to find that the home was rented to multiple families as part of a scam.

“I am outraged that anyone would do this to families – especially during this housing crisis, and I want anyone who may have been defrauded by the property owner of this rental scam in Covina to contact the Sheriff immediately in order for us to prosecute the perpetrator,” said Molina. “This may be happening throughout the country, and I encourage victims to contact their local law enforcement agencies to report this kind of fraud.”

The Covina case is considered Grand Theft, and Molina’s team will also be on site May 1 at the rental property, 5441 N. Calera Avenue to assist the victims:

Sheriff – taking victim reports and patrol increase, (909) 599-1261  
District Attorney’s Office – working with Sheriff on grand theft filing  
Consumer Affairs – identity theft claims and guidance, (800) 593-8222  
Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority – housing referrals, (213) 683-3333  
Adult Protective Services – to assist any elderly victims, (877) 477-3646  
Mental Health – assists victims with emotional distress, (800) 854-7771  
Public Social Services – provides financial assistance criteria, (562) 908-8400

—More—

Gloria Molina Warns Against Rental Scams, p. 2

Molina began receiving calls from local residents Tuesday regarding several families introducing themselves as new neighbors who planned to move in May to the rental property on Calera. Residents became alarmed when excitement from the new renters turned into disbelief and anger after learning they were victims of fraud and the property owner, Pardeep Singh could not be reached. Victims should call the Sheriff at (909) 599-1261. For social service resources or for other County agencies, dial 2-1-1.

—End—